

Message Text

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66

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 SS-15

NSC-10 AGR-20 AID-20 DOTE-00 SCEM-02 PC-04 RSR-01

/141 W

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R 102240Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5165

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 3572

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI ETRN

SUBJ: ECONOMIC IMPACT OF TRANSPORT STRIKE

REF: SANTIAGO 3412

1. ECONOMIC TOLL OF TRUCKERS STRIKE, NOW IN SIXTEENTH DAY, IS BECOMING SERIOUS. FEW PRIVATE VEHICLES ARE ON ROAD BECAUSE OF GASOLINE DISTRIBUTION PROBLEMS, WHICH APPARENTLY ARE GETTING NO BETTER. SUCH PUBLIC TRANSPORT AS IS AVAILABLE IS INADEQUATE TO GET WORKERS TO AND FROM THEIR JOBS. MOST SANTIAGO HOMES AND MANY OFFICES ARE OUT OR NEARLY OUT OF HEATING FUEL WITH PROSPECT OF LONG WAIT AFTER STRIKE ENDS BEFORE NORMAL DELIVERIES CAN BE RESUMED. MINISTRY OF MINES REPORTS 25 (UNNAMED) INDUSTRIES HAVE BEEN FORCED TO CLOSE BECAUSE OF LACK OF FUEL. HOWEVER, MOST PLANTS REMAIN IN PRODUCTION, PERHAPS ON REDUCED SCALE. PREVAILING PRACTICE NOW SEEMS TO BE FOR CUSTOMERS TO PICK UP FINISHED GOODS AT FACTORY IN THEIR OWN VEHICLES. PORTS ARE ABLE TO WORK ONLY PART TIME DUE TO LACK TRUCKS OR RAILWAY CARS TO MOVE GOODS OFF DOCKS.

2. SUPPLIES OF MEATS, SEAFOOD, FRUIT, AND VEGETABLES HAVE NOTICEABLY DWINDLED IN PAST WEEK AND PRICES HAVE SKYROCKETED.

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INFLATION IN AUGUST WILL BE HIGH. NOBODY NEED GO HUNGRY IF HE

HAS MONEY, BUT PUTTING TOGETHER A MEAL CAN BE COMPLICATED.
NATIONAL DISTRIBUTION SECRETARIAT UNDER AIR FORCE GENERAL
BACHELET HAS BEEN FORCED DISCONTINUE FOOD DISTRIBUTION TO POOR
NEIGHBORHOODS TO USE EXISTING TRANSPORT TO MOVE PRODUCTS FROM
PROCESSORS TO ITS WAREHOUSES.

3. COMMENT: THERE IS STILL A GOOD DEAL OF GOOD-HONORED
DISCIPLINE IN THE LINES WAITING FOR FOOD AND SUPPLIES, AND A
CONSIDERABLE ABILITY TO ADJUST, TO MAKE DO, AND TO GO ON WITH
A LIFE THAT STILL HAS SOME COMPENSATIONS.
DAVIS

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